

THE COMPLETE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Vivid Description of Droop Mountain Battle Reprinted From Pen of Andrew Price

Historic Battlefield Is Converted Into State Park

On a bleak day last November, State and National officials together with a large group of State citizens gathered at the Droop Mountain battlefield in Pocahontas County—72 years after Union forces routed the Confederate cavalry from the field—to dedicate the site of that conflict as a State park.

Private George Alderson of the 14th Virginia Cavalry went to the celebration from the hills of Nicholas County to accept the new State park as a memorial to his comrades who fell there. The boys in blue were absent. The last member of the G. A. R. in the Pocahontas section died last March so a World War veteran accepted the flag in their behalf.

This dedication—and renewed interest in the site together with its historical background—brings to mind the colorful description of the famous Droop Mountain encounter as chronicled by the late Andrew Price, famed State newspaperman and one of the first honored with a place in the West Virginia Publishers' Hall of Fame. Price was for many years editor of the Pocahontas Times, now edited by his brother, Cal Price.

His narrative of the battle follows:

The campaign in 1863, in West Virginia, on the Federal side, was under the command of Gen. W. W. Averell, of the Fourth Separate Brigade. He had at his disposal some five thousand troops and he was opposed to an army of about the same strength. The campaign in the mountains has been ignored by historians generally, the broken country of high hills and narrow valleys prevented the maneuvering of large bodies of troops, but it was no less important than the vast armies on the tidewater plains, for West Virginia was a barrier between the North and the South that the government must hold at all hazards. The Federal forces had met with disaster until Averell took charge in the spring of 1863. He was a New Yorker, a West Pointer, country-bred and efficient. He had won his spurs in subduing the Sioux nation. He could move his troops faster than any other commander, unless it was "Stonewall" Jackson, of the Confederate army.

When he came to West Virginia, the first thing he did was to mount his infantry upon horses and after that he was able to move his army with great rapidity and its march was always a surprise to the Confederates on either side of the Allegheny at will. He was so many engagements, but the great battle was that of Droop

thirty-four miles from Lewisburg and that if he drove his enemy forward that day that they would get by Lewisburg before Duffie would have arrived from Kanawha.

On Thursday then about all that was done was to try to go around the Confederates and cut them off from the mountain, but Jackson beat them to it and left the Levels to be occupied by Averell.

Stays With Confederates

Averell made his headquarters camp along the hill on the western edge of the Levels about where Gen. M. J. McNeal, of the Confederate veterans, resides. Averell, himself, was the guest of Col. Paul McNeal that night, and the whole community was Confederate but all who met him were charmed by him.

When the Levels was a lake Droop Mountain was the dam. The Greenbrier forced a passage through along the extreme eastern side and still plunges through the pass. Last summer the road commission blocked this road just as the army did in '63, and we who desired to march south had to either go down the river road on the right or to the left and climb the ridge and swing round the circle by way of Lobella and climb up the road that intersects the pike on top of the mountain back of the battlefield. They call these Hobson Choice detours these days.

Averell Detoured

So Averell detoured. Like "Stonewall" Jackson, he was an early riser, and he got his troops into position before daylight. Here is the way he laid out his attack:

He sent the 14th Pennsylvania to the left and they took up their stand near the Locust Creek bridge and appeared to be ready to charge up the mountain. Keeper's battery was placed on the high ground above Beard's mill and commenced to fire on the batteries on top of the mountain. Several families living in the jow place formed by Locust creek stayed there all day under the artillery fire. Ewing's battery was placed to the left pike between Hillsboro and the foot of Droop Mountain. Gibson's battalion and the 10th West Virginia were held in or near Hillsboro on the pike. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia regiments were placed to the right of the pike about the Renick place, out of sight of the Confederates on top of the mountain. The 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and one company of the 1st Pennsylvania, in all 1,175 men, were sent by the long road miles to the right by Lobella and while they started long before daylight they did not reach the pike until 1 or 2 m. in the afternoon. A great deal of cannon fire was exchanged.

at Lewisburg
first week of November,
ordered General Duffie to
Lewisburg, and Duffie marched
to Kanawha, 120 miles. Averell
had started from Beverly and had 110
miles to go. Averell reached Lewisburg
on Saturday, November 7, at 2 p.m., and found that Duffie
had got there at 10 a.m.

Sunday they started from Beverly
and came over Cheat Mountain
by way of Cheat Bridge, and
marched by Camp Bartow, where
they left the Staunton and Parkersburg
turnpike and took the road
leading by Greenbank to Huntersville.
Outside of some apprehension
from brushwhackers, they saw
no sign of the rebel army until
they got to Greenbank and from
there one they drove the pickets
before them.

Reach Huntersville

They reached Huntersville on
Wednesday at noon and there Averell
heard that Col. W. P. Thompson
with the 19th Virginia cavalry,
was at Marlins Bottom, at the
Greenbrier bridge. Huntersville
was the county seat, and while
the pike between the Levels and the
county seat ran by Marlins Bottom
where the river was bridged,
all persons attending court on
horseback from the Levels, when
the river could be forded turned to
left at Stephen Hole Run and rode
by the Beaver Creek route. They
raced by this about six miles—the
distance from Marlins Bottom to
Huntersville. Marlins Bottom is
now called Marlinton. So on Wednesday
there was a horse race. Averell sent the 14th Pennsylvania
cavalry and the 3rd West Virginia
mounted infantry down Beaver Creek
to cut off Thompson at Stephen
Hole Run, and sent the 2nd and 8th West Virginia mounted
infantry to Marlinton with Ewing's battery, but Thompson left in
a hurry and cut a barricade of
trees across the road on Price Hill,
and beat the Federals to Stephen
Hole Run and joined up with the
Confederate troops in the Levels
and there turned and stopped the
advance. Averell, at Huntersville,
got word in the night time from
his command at Marlinton and
from Stephen Hole Run, that
Thompson had escaped the trap.

Jain at Mill Point

Averell moved his Huntersville
army down Beaver Creek, Thursday
morning, starting at 3 a.m., and reaching
Mill Point at 8 a.m. He had
ordered the colonel in charge of
the Marlinton army to cut out the
barricade and join him at Mill
Point, and both wings of the army
arrived at the same time. The effect
of this was to put the Confederates
in motion and they retired
from the plains around Hillsboro
to the heights overlooking that
town, and erected embankments
and fortifications on the brow of
the mountain overlooking the Levels
where the pike cuts the mountain
going south. It is exactly at
the point that the tourist having
traversed north through the three
valleys of sand on the flat top of
Cheat Mountain, comes in sight all
of one of the prettiest spots of West
Virginia spread out some fifteen
hundred feet below him. It is a
breath-taking experience.

Averell says that the reason that
he did not attack on Thursday
when he came upon the Confederates
in the Levels was that he was

I imagine that something occurred during the slow morning hours that caused Averell the gravest apprehension. He had not attacked the day before for good and sufficient reasons, but about 9 o'clock the Confederates announced by cheers, and by band music, and by the display of battle flags, that Major General Echols had brought his army up and that the forces were equal and that the Confederates held a safe position.

I have given the position of the Federal troops, occupying a full half circle to the north of the battlefield. Here is the way the Confederates were stationed:

Gives Locations

On the river road to Greenbrier:
Edgar's battalion. On the farm-
land on the brow of the mountain
where the battle was fought: 22nd
Virginia cavalry, Col. George Pat-
ton; 19th Virginia cavalry, Col.
W. P. Thompson; 20th Virginia
Cavalry, Col. W. W. Arnett; 14th
Virginia cavalry, Col. James Coch-
ran; Derrick's battalion; Jackson's
batteries. On the Lobelia-Jacob
road: Nobody. The failure to
guard the road leading in from
the rear cost the Confederates the
battle. This oversight has never
been explained.

At 1:45 p.m. the flanking party
arrived and came through the
woods firing as they came and the
rifle balls fell everywhere. It is
said to have been one of the most
sudden and most fearful fires that
men were ever subject to. In
about an hour, the Confederates
were in full flight.

As soon as Averell heard his
flanking party commence to fire
he moved the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th
regiments obliquely to the right up
the mountain. The horses had been
left at the foot of the mountain.
They came out on top of the
mountain exactly on the left of
the flanking army and together
they advanced on the breastworks
of the Confederates and the fight
was over in a few minutes, and
the army in full retreat. Averell
sent Gibson's battalion after them
up the pike, together with one section
of Ewing's battery. But parts
of all the regiments joined in the
pursuit, and Averell was able to
halt his command on the top of
Spring Creek Mountain, overlooking
the Big Levels of Greenbrier.
This was the evening after the bat-
tle, Friday, November 6, 1863.

Successful in Retreat

He tried to hold back the pur-
suit so that Duffie might cut
them off at Lewisburg, but that
was not to be. They got through
Lewisburg and on towards Union
on the way to Dublin, by a mat-
ter of minutes, and were able to
cut a timber blockade in the
road.

We Confederates never had any
luck in West Virginia after the
battle of Droop Mountain. It was a
losing fight from that time on.
We had given Averell a defeat at
White Sulphur Springs the sum-
mer before, but with that exception,
Averell never lost a game.
He was allowed to continue in
command until the 3rd day of
September, 1864, with the most
brilliant record for success and
efficiency that was ever authorized
to a general in a campaign, when

22nd cripples.

for no reason, so far as history
can discover, he was summarily
dismissed from his command. He
openly charged that it was to
make room for some favorite in
the make-up of the army.

Quits Command

His last official communication
to his command closed with these
words: "I would rather serve in
your ranks than leave you, but I
am only permitted to say fare-
well."

During his command with the
Confederate rangers lasting from
May 16, 1863, to September 23,
1864, he fought twenty battles.

That is the outline of the Battle
of Droop Mountain. We most
earnestly insist that if this sketch
is in any wise in error that the
historian or veteran will immedi-
ately write to us and we will argue
it out.

Here is the panorama that
would have been presented to an
observer standing on the brow of
the mountain on the battlefield
just before the battle began: To
the east, 14th Pennsylvania regi-
ment, to the northeast, Keeper's
battery, to the north, Ewing's bat-
tery, the 4th West Virginia, and
Gibson's battalion; to the north-
west, behind the timber and in the
wicks and hollows of the land, the
2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia
regiments, lying on their arms,
every fourth man holding horses,
waiting for the sound of bat-
talion to fire. At the truck west
through which the 28th Ohio and
the company of cavalry were
upon the rear.

With all the Levels' homes
occupied that day by the
women and children. Nearly all
the non-combatant men were hid-
ing in the tents.

Jeanita Lillie
Clover Lick
Pocahontas County

IMPORTANT SERVICES OF THE STATE GUARDS TO
THE UNION

Chapter 4

These soldiers were not pensioned or rewarded like the rest of the army. Yet his services were of great peril and importance. They were in service about fourteen months.

In April 1864 the state guards were organized and took charge of the danger zone in West Virginia and in May 1864 the entire force of the regular army of West Virginia was on the move into Virginia to report to General Hunter at Staunton. From that time to the end of the war this regular army fought east of the mountains.

The policy of West Virginia during the last year of the war was given over entirely to the state guards. Yet they have been ignored. Most of the southern states have taken very good care of destitute southern veterans. But very few of these from Pocahontas ever received a pension.

These guards had all the standing of regular sworn defenders wore a uniform, and were authorized by law to lay down their lives for the Union.

Pocahontas County - State Guards - Adjustant or mustering officers;

Claiborne Pierson - Comm. August 8, 1861

John Sharp - Commissioned September 30, 1863

Captain Samuel Young's company

compiled from roll dated February 14, 1865

Captain Samuel Young - commissioned as Captain August 29, 1864

Enlisted Men

Benjamin Arbogast - Sergeant

John W. Armstrong - Sergeant

Alexander Atchison (this name probably should be Adkison)

Rubed Bussard (now spelled Bussard)

W. S. Dilley
Little Cheat Mountain

its murky way they scattered. All sense of direction was lost. The soldiers were cold, lost and bewildered. They threw away their guns and engaged in a mad scramble to get out. Most of them found their way back to Camp Bartow or to Lee's camp, but it was several days before they were in shape to present a warlike front.

The attack of September 14, on Elkwater had failed because the mountains took a hand in it.

On the next day, Lee sent down from his Valley Mountain Camp a reconnoitering party under the command of Major John A. Washington. This party was sent to see if Loring had gotten across Cheat with his troops. They got to near the Federal breastworks and were fired upon. Major Washington was killed.

Lee evidently decided not to attack the Federals at either Elkwater or White Top. Anyway there was no more fighting that year on the Randolph and Pocahontas lines.

Here is a bit of history not found in any of the dispatches. It was told to Andrew Price when he taught school at Big Springs on the site of Lee's camp. Told by an eye witness: The summer of 1861 terminated in one of the biggest rains that ever fell in these mountains and produced one of the biggest floods ever known in these streams. This downpour lasted all night and at daybreak next morning both armies, Federal and Confederate had broken camp in the night and both were in headlong retreat.

The Confederates fled south up Old Field Fork of Elk and cut a timber barricade at Crooked Fork at the foot of Elk Mountain (This barricade played a part in other skirmishes later.)

The Federals retreated down Tygart Valley turned east at Huttonsville and marched toward Staunton and fought the battles at Bartow and Top Allegheny.

Lee having extricated his army went to Richmond. When he found his summer work reduced to nothing by this great mishap in the jungle, he was inclined to believe the report that the mountain guide had misled his troops and lost them in the wilderness, and for a time it looked as if a certain young Pocahontas County man, who had

W. S. Dilley
Little Cheat Mountain

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S. Dilley
Cheat Mountain

undertaken to guide them, would be hanged. But Lee must have learned that he had been at fault for ordering them to penetrate the Cheat thicket in the night for nobody was executed. (I have not been able to learn who the guide was). This material was taken from W. Va. Blue Book 1928 - from articles by Andrew Price.

When the spruce timber was cut from Cheat Mountain many years after the war, muskets haversacks, and other articles were found where the army had cast them aside in their escape from the jungle.

In 1927 when the new highway over Middle and Valley Mountains (Seneca Trail) was being graded as Route 24, a great army dump pile was uncovered and all sorts of war trophies ranging from muskets to parts of cannons were found. These were left by Lee's first command in the Civil War.

Places in Pocahontas that were Lee's headquarters in 1861:

1. Valley and Middle Mountains
2. Meadow Bluff on Sept. 24.
3. Tall House at Marlin's Bottom
4. At Sewell Mountain on Oct. 20.

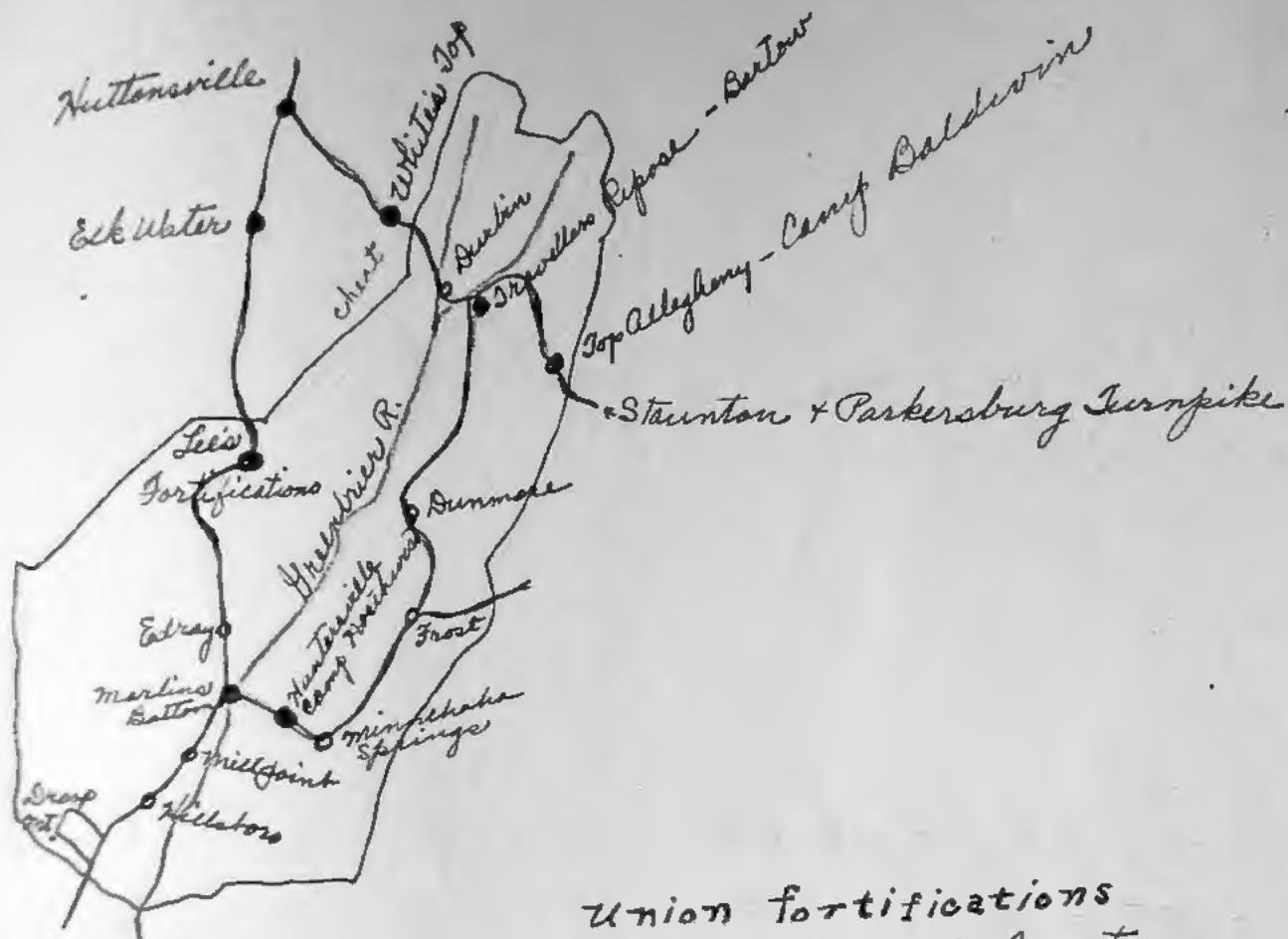
During the year 1861 all of Lee's activities were confined to W. Va. At Richard McNeal's farm near Mill Point, Mrs. McNeal, a Confederate sympathizer; prepared a fine meal but Lee refused to eat it for fear of poison.

Lee's Horse

When Lee was in the Greenbrier Valley, in 1861, he came across the best horse he had ever seen, the grey gelding, Traveler. Foaled in the Little Levels of Pocahontas and developed in the Big Levels of Greenbrier Co. No better horse ever set foot to the mat, though this region has produced its thousands like unto the far famed Traveler. (Pocahontas Times).

Weston Co.
Section 4-5-3

Granite Hill
Guarini S. Miller
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Feb. 24, 1940



union fortifications
in Randolph County
at
Huttonsville
Elk Water
White Top Shavers Chest

Confederate fortifications
in Pocahontas County

Travelers Rest - Camp Bertow
Top Allegheny - Camp Baldwin
Hunterville - Camp Northallister
Martins Bottom -
Valley & Middle Mountain



- Confederate Fortifications
- Federal Fortifications

WYOMING SOLDIERS

Andrew Wanless ----- 10th West Virginia Infantry
Nelson Wanless ----- " " " "
Armenius Buzzard ----- " " " "
Joseph Moore ----- " " " "
David Moore ----- " " " "
Andrew Adkinson ----- Died 1861
William McCarty ----- " " " "
George Wagner ----- " " " "
James Ryder ----- Died Buchanan
David Grimes ----- " " " "
James Johnson ----- " " " "
John C. Curry -----
Thomas Akers
William Cutlip
Jeremiah Sharp Died in service
Andrew Kellison
James Kee Died at Winchester Virginia
William Duncan
Wilton Sharp
Brown Arbogast
George Arbogast Died in service
John Wanless
Charles Arbogast Died in service
William Kennison
W. Clark Grimes
Abram Sharp
Peter Beverage
William Duffield - Died during war
Clark Kellison - Served under Sheridan, was also detached service
on the western plains after the war. He received
his discharge just in time to escape the Custer
massacre.
William Gay - Escaped from the army below Richmond with 6 others
made his way home to Stony Creek.
William Rives Moore - Died at Wheeling during the war
William Hudson Went to Mo.
David Hudson After the war
Bernard Sharp - Shot through hips. Died at Duncan's Lane
Henry Sharp - Wounded near William Gibsons on Elk. Died
Luther Sharp - Shot by a scouting party near his home.
William Rogers
John Philips - 6th West Virginian killed at Bulltown in Braxton Co.
Hugh Grimes
Hop Wanless - 6th West Virginia Infantry
Rite Arbogast " " " "
Dallas Alderman " " " "
Alfred McCoever
Frank Grimes
George Duffield
Calvin Kelly
Earl Kelly
William Kelly
Alice Kelly
Peter Grimes
Frank Grimes
Daniel Sims
William Sims

Sam Sharp
Charlie McCarty
Alfred Gay
Brison Hannah
Bilzen Bucher
George Moore
John Tyler
James Duncan
Washington Moore
George Hellison
John Silva
Register Moore
Francis Byrd
James Pyles
Ed Bowers

Taken from History of Poca W. T. Price

" " List in Poca Times

" " By Peter McCarty

" " A Scout in Youngs Co.

" " West Virginia Blue Book - 1928

I had already sent in
Ci 3rd West Virginia Cavalry
Captain Young's Co. of Scouts
Captain Allen's Co. of Scouts

Two of the sons of Thomas Brinnon were Cavalrymen, and took part in
the battle of Droop Mountain but I have not been able to get their
name.

John Smith
John Fischer
John Moore
John Tyler
James Duncan
John Mitch Moore
John E. Ellison
John Silva
John Steiner Moore
John Fyrd
James Hayes
John Powers

Taken from History of Poca W. T. Price

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I had already sent in

11th Regt West Virginia Cavalry

Sainte-Young's Co. of Scrubs

Captain Allen's Co. of Scouts

One of the sons of Thomas McDonnell were Cavalrymen, and took part in the battle of Droop Mountain but I have not been able to get their names.

Martha Dilley
Clover Lick
Pocahontas County

Pocahontas - Dilley
Lower Lick, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY - CHAPTER 4 - Section 4b - 3

Confederate Soldiers of Pocahontas

Arbogast, Jacob - killed at Fort Donelson

Arbogast, Washington - died in 1864 from wounds received at Spottsylvania.

Auldrige, John - killed at Gettysburg

Auldrige, Allen - Given an honorable discharge. Their father killed for being a
Confederate sympathizer.

Ashford, Claburn,

Arbogast, J. C. - Captain of the Greenbank company of 31st Va. Infantry

Artuagh, George -

Arbaugh, James

Arbaugh, John A. Died in 1861 at the Minnehaha Springs

Bazzard, Jackson - Died in battle of Dry Creek

Beverage, Levi (

Beverage, Joseph { These were brothers and all returned from the war }

Beverage, Jacob { }

Beard, John J. Wounded

Beard, Joel Early - Died in service.

Beard, Charles Woods - returned

Beard, Edwin E. - - -

Beard, Moffett - - -

Beard, Wallace Warwick - - -

Beard, Wallace Warwick - - -

Beard, John G - - -

Beard, James - - -

Beard, John S. - - - died in battle

John J. Dilley
Clover Lick
Poachontas County

John J. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.

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Beard, Wallace Warwick - - -

Beard, Wallace Warwick - - -

Beard, John G - - -

Bearce, James - - -

Bellman, Adam S. - - - died in battle

... S. Wiley
- Lt. F. W. W.
Co. 4 - Sec. 4b - 3

Cochran, William - Captain of Stony Creek Militia.

Cochran, George - A faithful soldier

Courtney, Andrew - Died a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware

Courtney, Thomas -

Curtney, George -

Cassell, George - Died of wounds during the war.

Curry, James - Among the last soldiers killed at Appomattox 1865

Cooper, Robert - Died in the war.

Coomer, James - Lost in arm in battle

Cooper, John - Wounded at Fisher's Hill

Cooper, Charles - " " " "

Cooper, George - Killed in battle - 1864

Collison, James -

Conran, Clark -

Cochran, George B -

Hillay, Tobias -

Elliott, James - Under the command of Gen. Kerby Smith in the southwest. After the war he followed his way to Iowa, from there went to the Dakotas on a trapping expedition, and finally enlisted in Custers Army. He was with Reno's Company when Custer's Company was massacred in 1876.

Fitzpatrick, Andrew -

Fontenot, Richard -

Gandy, Matthew -

Gandy, Matthew - Died at Stribling Springs in 1862

Gandy, Mattie Parilia - Died in battle of Port Republic

Gandy, Mattie Parilia - Her brother Matt was drowned near Elkwater in 1879.

Gandy, Mattie Parilia - A legless M. untwin soon after the battle 1861.

Gandy, Mattie Parilia - Prisoner for three years.

... S. Wiley
Lt. F. W. W.
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Cowan, Clark -

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Emmett, Andrew -

Emmett, Richard -

Foster, Matthew -

Foster, Matthew - Died at Stribling Springs in 1862

Foster, Frank Martin - Died in battle of Port Republic

Foster, John T. - Our local boy but was drowned near Elkwater in 1879.

Foster, John T. - A leader by Mountain men after the battle 1861.

Foster, John - Prisoner for three years.

Miller, Valley

1st, W. Va.

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Friel, Israel

| These two were from Clover Lick, both survived the war.

Friel, John L

Galford, John - Wounded at Gettysburg, died at Richmond soon after in Chimboroy's Hospital.

Gum, Robert N. -

Gay, Robert N. -

Gay, Samuel M. - Wounded at Strasburg, Va.

Geiger, Godfrey - (Took part in some of the biggest battles of the war. Were at home on furlough and called by Joe C. Gay to take part in (battle of Duncans Lane.

Gum, John E. -

Gum, McBrice J. - Captain in Jacob W. Marshalls Co. Once when he was at his home near Clover Lick on furlough he and other Confederate soldiers were at the home of Woods Poage, suddenly I. W. Allen and a company of his scouts began firing on them from the top of a hill near the house. They ran for the woods but Gum seeing he was going to be overtaken, dropped to the ground and lay still when the next shot was fired. As the pursuers passed by they said "Well, we got one of them," and ran on after the others. So Gum escaped. Gum and Allen lived within a mile of each other.

Geizer, Cutlip - 62nd Va.

Geier, Levi - Wounded Spottsylvania.

Gill, F. McBryde - of Greenbank Wounded at Spottsylvania Court House, and again at Liberty. A third time at Winchester. At Cold Harbor he had his mustache shaved off by a minnie ball. He was twice a prisoner of war. Captured the first time at Uriah Heveners in 1861 and paroled. Second time taken at his home on Back Mountain in Oct. 1864 and taken to Clarkburg.

Gill, L. Jr. - Died at Port Republic

Gill, W. Va. - Levi., served through the war.

Gill, W. Va. -

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Gill, W. Va. - served through the war.

Gill, W. Va. - Prisoner of war.

Clover Lick

Lick, W. Va.

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Friel, Israel { These two were from Clover Lick, both survived the war.

Friel, John L {

Galford, John - Wounded at Gettysburg, died at Richmond soon after in Chimboroy's Hospital.

Gum, Robert N. -

Gay, Robert N. -

Gay, Samuel M. - Wounded at Strasburg, Va.

Geiger, Godfrey - (Took part in some of the biggest battles of the war. Were at home on furlough and called by Joe C. Gay to take part in (battle of Duncans Lane.

Gum, John E. -

Gum, McBrice J. - Captain in Jacob W. Marshalls Co. Once when he was at his home near Clover Lick on furlough he and other Confederate soldiers were at the home of Woods Poage, suddenly I. W. Allen and a company of his scouts began firing on them from the top of a hill near the house. They ran for the woods but Gum seeing he was going to be overtaken, dropped to the ground and lay still when the next shot was fired. As the pursuers passed by they said "Well, we got one of them," and ran on after the others. So Gum escaped. Gum and Allen lived within a mile of each other.

Geiger, Cutlip - 62nd Va.

Geiger, Levi - Wounded Spottsylvania.

Geiger, P. McBryde - of Greenbank Wounded at Spottsylvania Court House, and again at Liberty. A third time at Winchester. At Cold Harbor he had his mustache shaved off by a minnie ball. He was twice a prisoner of war. Captured the first time at Uriah Heveners in 1861 and paroled. Second time taken at his home on Back Mountain in Oct. 1864 and taken to Clarkburg.

Geiger, Letitia - Died at Port Republic

Geiger, W. V. - Letitia served through the war.

Geiger, W. V. -

Geiger, W. V. - Served in the war.

Geiger, W. V. -

Geiger, W. V. - Impr. Died a prisoner of war.

Geiger, W. V. - Served in the war.

Connison, David D. - died during war.

GARNER, David -

Kappeler, Nathaniel -

Ferguson, John -

See. George M. - 22nd Va.

Name. Charles L -

McCreary, James C. - died of wounds received in 7 day fight around Richmond. Buried near
Gr enwood Tunnel, Va.

Moore, William - Captured near Richmond in 1862. Never heard from again.

Washington, John - Taken prisoner. Died Camp Chase, Ohio.

Macmillin, James H. - Leiu., While on picket at the Rapidan River, he joked with the others and as he stuck out his foot, in an instant his ankle was shattered by a minnie ball. He was taken to a hospital and doing well, but he ate too much of the good things brought by some ladies. One of few conf. killed by kindness.

McLaughlin, Jacob - Died in war, in the battle of Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, 1864. He wrote from Bunker Hill on Aug. 1, 1864 to his cousin Nannie McLaughlin in which he tells of much marching and fighting since May 4, and states further that the troops are very much exhausted by these fatiguing marching and hopes they can rest awhile. He further says "I am sorry to inform you that both your brothers are taken prisoners, and the whole of the 25th Regiment excepting 14 have been taken. You ought to be thankful they are prisoners instead of being killed, as there have so many poor soldiers fallen this summer. I think a prisoner now is much better off than we poor men that have to fight and march so much. At least I know they are in less danger" It goes on to say he has not written sooner because they have not stopped long enough to write.

— 2 —

... - Captain of Nicholes' blues. At the time of the battle of Droop Mountain Claiborne McNeill of Buckey, a Confederate soldier was at home on a leave of absence. Hearing the battle begin he climbed up Bridger Knob and saw the battle. On one side was engaged his brother, John McNeill, on the other side his half brother, John McNeill. After the battle, McNeill knowing that his half brother had been captured and both engaged was filled with an intense anxiety, he searched among the dead and wounded, at the head of the long line of prisoners. Presently he saw McNeill and ran up with outstretched arms and said "I did it, I did it, it was I that did it." He was immediately surrounded with a dozen or more men, who pointed him to the ground and said "I am told to shoot you, shoot you, shoot you." He said "I am not afraid to die, I am not afraid to die, I am not afraid to die." The men then took him to the top of a hill, and shot him.

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Lennison, David D. - died during war.

Gertrude R. Davis -

Johnson, Nathaniel -

Ferguson, John -

See, George W. - 22nd Va.

Wade, Charles L -

McRee, James C. - died of wounds received in 7 day fight around Richmond. Buried near
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W. J. Alz, S. H. -

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It will be remembered that the main battle of Braxton was fought on Oct. 3, 1861 and that the Confederate army fell back to the Top Allegheny, and went to building cabins for the winter, and fortifying and building batteries.

The idea of the Confederates in moving to the Top Allegheny was to prevent an army from marching in behind them by the way of the North Fork road, and the Greenbank Mountain road. Pickets were placed down the Greenbank road, and on the North Fork road. The pickets on the North Fork road decided to blockade it, to be sure that the enemy could not get in the rear, and company G was on the detail to pilot a company of soldiers down on the North Fork with the instructions to blockade it in such a tangle that it would take a year or more to cut it out. The soldiers cut down the mannoth hemlock across the road for about four miles. The soldiers said that it was the largest blockade in the war. After the war it took the road hands about two years to cut it out of the road, and each man working about four days. The Greenbank mountain road was also blockaded.

It was in the engagement on Top Allegheny that the old Confederates soldiers, William Slayton was wounded and crept off in the bush to die, but was found two days later by his comrades who were searching for missing soldiers. Their attention was attracted to the place of some one singing a wood old hymn. When found, they were told he though he would sing a hymn before he died, but he recovered and lived many years.

It will be remembered that the home of John Yeager was in the center of the battle field. We have it from Mrs. Rachel Sutton, who at that time was staying with her uncle, John Yeager and Mr. J. D. Taylor, a son-in-law of John Yeager, that they were awakened in the morning before daylight by the loud talking of the soldiers. They were still early for battle, and were filling the breastworks just back of the house to the road, when the bullets began falling on the house like

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The Confederate General ordered the inmates to vacate the house, the Leager family moved out. When they came back, after the battle, they found the house riddled with bullets, one corner was badly damaged by a cannon ball and house was filled with wounded soldiers. The upstairs was used for a hospital for many days, and many of the soldiers died in the house.

The retreat of the Union forces after the battle was known as "Slattons Retreat" and led to the composition of the old violin tune of the same name, which was composed by two Confederates soldiers, George B. Sutton and Robert Wolfenbarger, who said they heard him trying to give the command to retreat, but couldn't say anything for stammering. It was reported afterwards, that the delay of the Union army, and failing to make the attack in the rear at the proper time was due to the fact that they found a barrel or two of good cider at the Nottingham home and wouldn't march a step until it was all consumed and their canteens filled. The unreasonable thing about the official reports of the battle of Top Allegheny is that perhaps 2000 soldiers on each side would stand and shoot at each other from daylight until 2:30 and only 20 killed on each side. But it will be remembered that the boys of the Blue and the Gray" who fought were amateurs in the art of warfare, and had not yet been drilled, and had not learned the military tactics of Jackson, Lee, and Grant. The shooting must have been at random, for the lumber company who cut the timber in that section found a number of trees half cut down by the cannon balls, these trees were said to be entirely out of the line of battle.

From: Pocahontas Times
from a history of Greenbank
written in 1934 by R. W. Brown
of Greenbank and pub. in the times.

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The experience of a soldier at the battle of Droop Mountain in 1863. A foot soldier marching through to take his stand at Droop Mountain passed near his home and his folks presented him with a fine boiled ham, which he placed in a knapsack and carried some twenty odd miles on a forced march to the battlefield where he had a few hours rest and was than envolved in the battle. The Confederates retreated and marched until late at night when they called a halt just outside of Lewisburg. This soldier in 24 hours had walked over 50 miles and had fought a battle. Being ready for refreshments, he looked for his ham and found that there was nothing but a rock. Just before the battle, while he was taking a nap, some comrade had stolen his ham and replaced it with a rock weighing bout the same number of pounds. It was this stone he had been defending against onslaught and which he had carried all these weary miles.

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CIVIL WAR ACTIVITIES IN POCOHONTAS

Terminating in Battle at White Sulphur

On August 21, 1863 Averill started to Huntersville and halted his main command at Frost, while some of his command drove the Confederates down Knapps Creek until they reached the Northwest passage between Huntersville and Minnehaha Springs. Here the Confederates took a stand in the canyon. Averill hearing about it at Frost, on the 22nd sent Gibson's Battalion down Knapps Creek to make it appear that it led the army. Then Averill with his main army crossed over into the Hills through the Shrader settlement. By this road Averill rode into the deserted village of Huntersville in the rear of the Confederates. A squadron of cavalry under Col. Ohley was sent to learn the whereabouts of the Confederates and found them retreating towards Warm Springs. They were overtaken and there was continual skirmishing until the Confederates were driven through the Fyler Gap into Virginia.

Camp Northwest near Huntersville was the first elaborate camp to be built in the Civil War. It was located on the White farm, and there were substantial log buildings, much equipment, and a lot of supplies there. The camp was burned on August 22, 1863. The commissary buildings, stores, cabins, blacksmith shop, wagons, rifles, and so forth were destroyed and a lot of plunder carried away. All the wheat and flour in the mill opposite J. A. Reed's house was also destroyed. That night the Federals camped at Huntersville and waited for two Confederate units who were marching to join them by way of Beverly and Marlinton. On the 23rd Averill marched to Warm Springs and Col. Jackson and Gen. Jones retreated before him to Millboro. Averill settled that night and having cleared Pocahontas of the Confederate troops, decided to do the same for Greenbrier County. He therefore turned back and marched into Greenbrier.

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To keep Pocahontas County clear of Confederates he sent back the 10th W. Va. to Camp at Marlins Bottom. It was the regiment of General Thomas M. Harris. It was his command that fired the last shot at Appomattox. After the war he served on the commission that tried the assassins of President Lincoln.

At the time he was in camp at Marlins Bottom, he has with him his twelve year old son, who has a horse of his own and who rode as the mascot of the "Tenth Legion". This twelve year old boy is none other than Hon. John T. Harris, the state clerk of the West Virginia senate and the most popular man in West Virginia.

From, West Virginia
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BATTLE CHEAT MOUNTAIN

September 13, 1861

The fortifications at Valley and Middle mountains were made because of a report by William Skeen, a lawyer at Huntersville, who furnished them with a map, and who pointed out that the railroad at Millboro was exposed to attack as well as the railroad at Staunton and that it was not as many miles distant by turnpike. Therefore, Robert E. Lee was sent to Pocahontas to put up fortifications at this place. He arrived at Valley Mountain on August 8, 1861. All histories say that his fortifications were on Valley Mountain. That in part is true for that was the pass that his troops watched, but his main camp was south of the pass through middle Mt. and the signs there today show the greatest amount of work. Lee's troops were volunteers and amateurs in the art of war. There was a lot of sickness in his camp that summer. Almost all of Lee's troops, as well as other confederate troops in the county that summer 1861 were lowlanders from the cotton country. Many of them had never seen a mountain before. That was why the mountains got them. There were very few mountain men in camp.

The Confederate forces took up all of Greenbrier Valley. They had armies at Travelers Rest (Camp Bartow) under the command of Loring. At Huntersville (Camp Northwest) at Marlinton and Top Allegheny. These troops came from all over the south. They had been told there being to the fact that it soon became apparent the Virginia west of the great Allegheny was going to put many soldiers into the field to aid secession.

At this time Robert E. Lee was a brigadier general of the Confederate troops and was placed in the Greenbrier Valley to take command of the units there. General Loring outvoted Lee, but was more from him.

McClellan swept every thing before him for he had railroad transportation into the interior of the state, while the confederates were gathering from the south by slow marching across the Allegheny mountains. By the middle of the summer, McClellan had a

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B. Dilley
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large army in the Tygarts Valley at Elk Water. Here that army dug one of the biggest trenches and bunkers of the war to hold the road. To keep the fort from being flanked and surprised from behind, another army had made a most elaborate fortified camp at White's Top of Cheat on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. This place also lent itself to easy defense. The road here passes through a gap between two beautiful hills, and the soldiers fortified both sides of the road.

The Union and Confederate forces faced each other for about two months, each waiting for the other to give battle. Finally, about the middle of September, Lee planned to attack the fortifications at Elkwater. Realizing that the pike was closed by the fortifications at White Top, the orders were that on the night of Sept. 13, (Some authorities say the 11th), the army from Camp Bartow were to climb Back Allegheny then leave the road and silently pass Whites Top through the spruce woods and to fall in behind these fortifications. A part of the army was to stay and watch the army at White Top to keep them from joining the other Union forces. The rest of the Army from Camp Bartow were to drop down into Tygarts Valley and march up stream and attack the Elkwater fortifications in the rear, while Lee marched down and attacked the front. Never was a battle better planned, and never was one worse executed, but Lee could not have known that the spruce woods on top of Cheat were like or he would not have expected an army of southerners to get through at night. Lee's camp was in hardwood territory where a man could easily walk through. But to take an army through the jungles of Cheat in the night was an unheard of project. There were dense growths of spruce something like a forest of 1,000 board feet to the acre. There were many windfalls that could not be seen at night. There were great patches of laurel that even a Pocahontas bear could hardly penetrate. The ground was covered with a plant called bobblerod that made a tangle of root and difficult. Also between Back Allegheny and Cheat was a strip of swampy country so covered with spruce that the sun could hardly penetrate. To add to the trouble of these southern boys, the first snow of the winter began to fall last night, and it was getting late that dark mornin through which Cheat River winds

B. Dilley
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CIVIL WAR

- April 3, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Purlinton, Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-1-

Chapter 4--Section 4--Part b

Reminiscences of Civil War Days.
By Evelyn Yeager Beard.

In the fall and winter of 1861-62 the Confederate soldiers camped at Camp Allegheny, my old home place, under the command of Jose (Ed) Johnson. The sugar grove belonging to my father, John Yeager, consisting of about five hundred trees was used for building the camps and cabins. This location could be used as a point of vantage, as by using field glasses they could observe the movements of the Union soldiers camped on top of Cheat Mountain, near the Clubhouse.

The year of 1861-62 was a cold and rainy year. Many of the soldiers camping there were from the South. I remember them as being not very warmly clad, and shivering with cold. Not being used to the cold, damp climate many of them sickened and died, and were buried on a little hill back of our house.

Our back porch was partitioned off to be used as a commissary by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The soldiers wanting tobacco, candy, etc., would have to wait their turn. The porch being small, and at times crowded, they would ask me to take their purchases for them. Being a child and small, they would make room for me. I would make their purchases and then give a liberal share of the candy. I was a youngster of about ten and my brother, Hank Yeager (Paul McNeil Yeager) eight. The soldiers made a lot over us children. Receiving us, they would invite us down to help eat them. They were not particularly shy in doing so. Many of

CIVIL WAR

April 3, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 4--Section 4--Part bReminiscences of Civil War Days.
By Evelyn Yeager Beard.

In the fall and winter of 1861-62 the Confederate soldiers camped at Camp Allegheny, my old home place, under the command of Jose (Ed) Johnson. The sugar grove belonging to my father, John Yeager, consisting of about five hundred trees was used for building the camps and cabins. This location could be used as a point of vantage, as by using field glasses they could observe the movements of the Union soldiers camped on top of Cheat Mountain, near the Clubhouse.

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Our back porch was partitioned off to be used as a commissary by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The soldiers wanting tobacco, candy, etc., would have to wait their turn. The porch being small, and at times crowded, they would ask me to store their purchases for them. Being a child and small, they had little room for me. I would make their purchases and then receive a liberal share of the candy. I was a youngster of six and my brother, Mack Yeager (Paul McNeil Yeager) eight. We would sit over a lot over us children. Receiving them they would invite us down to help eat them. They were particularly shy in doing so. Many of

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the cakes were decorated so fancy that as children we thought there was nothing in the world like them. Colonel McCune would often let me wear the big plume he wore in his hat, and it was a gala day for me when I would have the privilege of wearing it. When leaving Camp Allegheny, he gave me the plume, taking it from his hat, saying I could keep it for always.

One of the skirmishes of the Civil War was fought at this point, called Church Hill, or Camp Allegheny. While but a skirmish, it was a hard fought one and lasted from about 4 A.M. until after 2 P.M. If I remember correctly, nineteen were killed. I remember the shots falling on the roof of our house like hail. My mother and sister Fannie were ill at this time. During a lull in the battle Colonel Baldwin of the 52nd Virginia Regiment had them carried over on cots to his own cabin for safety, and they remained there during the night. My brother Jack Yeager and myself watched the remainder of the battle from a point of safety. We saw the Confederate flagman fall, and saw the flag almost instantly raised again, believe by Lieut. [redacted], but I am not positive about the name. Capt. Mollohan was killed in the battle of Church Hill, and was buried there along with many others. A spent ball passed between my brother Mr. John Henry Yeager, and Rachel Arbogast, who was visiting us. Col. Anderson, Confederate was killed by advanced guard of Union soldiers dressed in Confederate uniform. Capt. Anderson waved his hand, telling the they were Confederate men and he was instantly killed.

The Union forces were over there with several wounded men and the like. The cabins were unsuitable, and my mother

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The skirmish was over before any were killed several wounded men were sent off. The ambulances were unsuitable, and my mother

POC. HUNTER COUNTY

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had the upstairs of our house converted into a temporary hospital. Our house was under construction when war broke out, and was not then complete. The upstairs was one large room. Several of the wounded men died, and were buried along by those killed in battle. For a brief period a downstairs room was occupied by a sick officer, with his wife and baby. Later this same room was used as a Post Office kept by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The front part of this house is still in good condition, the remainder being torn down. We had quite a collection of sabers, cannon balls, musket balls and minnie balls which we used in our play. Ed Freeman, living at the present time at the old home place at Allegheny church, finds some of the musket balls occasionally when plowing his fields. He gave some of them to us when we had a family reunion picnic there in the summer of 1924. The old batteries and trenches are still in evidence.

A Confederate soldier was sick in one of the camps of the 31st Virginia Regiment when a Union soldier crept into the cabin to steal provisions, thinking the cabin was empty. The sick soldier crawled to the door after him and shot him.

My father, John Yeager, died December 2, 1861, and was believed to have been poisoned.

In the spring of 1862 the Confederates broke camp on Saturday. At two o'clock the same night of their leaving Captain and two or three other men set fire to the commissary building, burning every other cabin. My mother plead with them to save them so as to be used for stables and out-

POC. HUNTA'S COUNTY

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In the spring of 1862 the Confederates broke camp on Saturday. At two o'clock the same night of their leaving the soldiers and their horses set fire to the commissary stores, setting every other cabin. My mother pleaded with them to save them so as to be used for stables and out-

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buildings, but they told her she should be thankful they were not burning the house. The 52nd and 31st Virginia Regiment camps were completely destroyed, but a few of the other cabins were saved.

When the Confederates broke camp in the spring 1862, my brothers, Will and Henry Yeager, Crawford Arbogast and others went with them, Will and Henry joining Company G. 31st Virginia Regiment, Earle's Division, Ewell's Corps. Will was killed Feb. 6, 1865 at Hatcher's Run near Petersburg, Virginia, and was buried there. Henry Yeager and W. H. Hull were captured and made prisoners at Fort Steadman near Petersburg on March 25, 1865, and taken to Point Lookout, Maryland. They were released alphabetically, W. H. Hull the early part of July, and Henry sometime later.

After so many of our own boys had joined the army, mail became an important item in the lives of those at home. All of our mail, as well as that of the neighbors, had to be gotten from Ripleytown, Virginia, eleven miles away, only one house being located along the way. The person making the trip would bring news for all in the neighborhood. Practically every family had someone that belonged to them in the war. The boys, before leaving, insisted that when any of them wrote a letter, they should address the ones they knew and had seen, so each family could hear as often as possible. Mail in those days was not as reliable as it is now, and receiving word, however indistinct, was a comfort to the ones at home. When our turn came to receive a letter, it was usually the one that rode horse-

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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After so many of our own boys had joined the army, mail became an important item in the lives of those at home. All of our mail, as well as that of the neighbors, had to be gotten from Hightown, Virginia, eleven miles away, only one house being passed along the way. The person making the trip would bring all for all in the neighborhood. Practically every family had a son that belonged to them in the war. The boys, before leaving, decided that when any of them wrote a letter, they would address the ones they knew and had seen, so each family could hear as often as possible. Mail in those days was not as plentiful as it is now, and receiving word, however indistinct, was a comfort to the ones at home. When our turn came to receive the mail, I was usually the one that rode horse-

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back on the weekly trips to get it. I never was afraid, except when making the return trip. On the way home at every turn in the road, I expected to meet an army of Yankees. Eight of the eleven miles was dense timberland, and looking back on it now, I believe I was a pretty good soldier myself, for those miles seemed long ones to a child making the trip alone, even though I usually went and came in a sweeping gallop. On one of these trips my sister Fannie, about twenty years of age, later Mrs. James D. Kerr, made the trip. After leaving, several regiments of Union soldiers came by on their way to Hightown, and my mother knew that my sister would have to meet them on her way back. The hour came for her return, sundown and dark, and still she had not returned. It was a long, anxious night, and we, children that we were, at least partly realized the hours of anxious suspense that my mother was going through. At daybreak she returned. She had met the Yankee soldiers about three o'clock in the afternoon, six miles from home, at Layrel Fork. A ruffian soldier ordered her off her horse, but the officer in command (think it was Col. Geo. Washington Hull, from McDowell, Virginia) stepped forward saying, "No, Lady, stay on your horse. You shall not be forced but we shall have to delay your return home until morning. We mean to camp near here tonight and no word shall be carried back." At sundown the officer sent a servant to Daniel Hifong's, three miles from home, he still holding guard outside all night to make sure no word got out to Confederate soldiers. At daybreak, he rejoined

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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his regiment, Fannie being given permission to return home.

Union soldiers sometimes made camp at Camp Bartow. After dark quite frequently mother would take one of us out where we could see down to Camp Bartow to see if any camp fires were lighted. If so, we knew they would pass our house about eight o'clock the next morning. We would then drive the stock over to Sugar Camp Ridge, so the Yankees would not take them as they went by, brother Brown Yeager and Henry lifelong guarding them in the mountains. Sugar cakes, syrup, biscuits and other provisions would be buried also. Years later jugs of syrup were found and dug up.

Mother and Fannie knitted socks for Will and Henry while in the army. Yankees were often passing through, and at one of these times we had quite a scramble in the pantry. Mother and I entered in time to see a Yankee trying to make his escape through the window with his arms full of provisions and the prized knitted socks, with Fannie clinging frantically to the socks, determined he should not have them. Those watching from outside laughed at their comrade's predicament, failing to retain the socks as well as the provisions, and yet holding his balance on the high narrow window. Fannie was victorious in the struggle for possession of the socks.

John Arbogast, later Campbell, and I were visiting Mr. John Nottingham who lived near Boyer. As in every boyhood, we tried to ride by side, and pranks played which led to some real tragedy. We were about fifteen years old at this time. Dressed in uniform, put

POCONO MOUNTAINS COUNTY

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John Arbogast, later Campbell, and I were visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Nottingham who lived near Boyer. As in early days we would travel alongside by side, and pranks played on each other until we got into trouble. We were about fifteen years old at this time. Dressed in uniform, put

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s run over our shoulder, and went out on the hill where we knew Dave and Jim Kerr, who were not old enough to go to the army, could see us. They spied us and, thinking we were suspicious characters, possibly Yankee spies, shouldered their guns also and started our way. We began to saunter in the direction of the house, but it was not long before we heard them cry, "Halt," which we knew to do immediately. Only a short time before one of the pickets had cried, "Halt" to Jack Slayton. Not being quite normal mentally, he became frightened and did not obey the command. I can imagine I see them carrying him by our house now.

When the heavy fighting and cannonading was being done in Richmond and other points in Virginia, we would lie flat on the ground and listen to the rumble of the cannon. Anxiously we would wait for mail to hear if our boys were in those battles and were safe.

At the close of the Civil War, Henry Arbogast Yeager was held as a prisoner-of-war at Point Lookout, Maryland, and was released, after taking the oath of allegiance to the United States, on June 17, 1865. The prisoners were released alphabetically, and Henry Yeager realized too late to be released under "Y", as the original spelling of Yeager was with a "j", the men calling himself "Reager" instead of Yeager.

When finally released it was under "R" as Henry A. Reager but he had been to sign it "Henry A. Yeager". This is the only document I found in the Virginia State Library, several copies in War Dept., Washington, D. C., but the system was not as ironclad then as now.

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Juanita Dilley
Clover Lick
Pocahontas County

CIVIL WAR

Captain J. W. Mathews served in the war between the states. He had always expressed a desire to be buried in a Confederate Uniform and according to his wish his body was drawn to the grave in a two-horse wagon. He was born in Pocahontas County in 1839 and at the age of 21 he enlisted as a private in Co. 125th Virginia Infantry and saw service in many of the historic battles of the Civil War. He was one of the so-called prisoner of war in Charleston S. C. been placed with a number of others, about 600 between the Federal defense and the attacking Confederates, and being exposed to the firing of this attacking army. Fortunately the danger of the prisoners was discovered in time to avert any casualties. He died in Greenbrier County in 1930.

Wednesday Oct. 10, 1934 Mathew John McNeel celebrated this nineteenth birthday at the old McNeel homestead where there has a John McNeel resided since 1768. At the age of seventeen he entered the Civil War and saw arduous and honorable service. He is the last remaining member of Captain W. L. Mcneels' Company of soldiers. -----Pocahontas Times

No where in the mountains were the Confederate States more solidly supported than in the Greenbank community in fact there was hardly a Union man found in the whole community. The first year of the war 1861, Confederate Veterans Company "G" of the Virginia 31st Regiment mustered in the service 53 all volunteers. In the second year of the war company G lost 120 soldiers, all six feet tall except James Hughes and Robert Wittenbarker, practically all from the Greenbank District. Company G. was of the famous 31st Regiment of the 4th Brigade of Stonewall Jackson's Corps and Army under the command of Robert E. Lee. The Union soldiers admitted that they could always tell when they had to confront the 31st Regt. of Stonewall's brigade, due to the fact that the impact was always sure and irresistible.

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John M. Lightner was first Lieutenant in this Company from Huntersville.

The third Company formed was that of Captain Arbogast at Greenbank. It too, was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry. Captain Arbogast was afterward promoted to Major of the regiment. Lieutenant H. M. Poague of Pocahontas County but serving in a Bath County Company was killed in action at Warrenton Virginia, October 12 1863.

Lieutenant James McLaughlin, of Captain Stofer's Company from Huntersville was wounded at Shepherdstown and died at Winchester, Virginia. The loss was considerable on both sides. Among that of the Confederates was that of Captain Anderson of the Lynchburg Artillery and Captain J. C. Whitmer of the Pocahontas Rifles.

In the Civil War the first engagement which occurred in Pocahontas County was at Camp Bartow on what is known as the Peter Yearer farm known as Traveler's Repose. Late in the summer of 1861 a Confederate force was collected at this point. It consisted of the first Georgia Infantry, Col. Ramsey commanding; the twelfth Georgia, Colonel Edward Johnson in command; the 4th Virginia Infantry, Colonel William L. Smith, and Colonel Henstrom's Battalion; the Churchville Infantry from Churchville, Augusta County, commanded by the Col. J. C. Whitmer; the entire force under the command of General Henry L. Jackson.

On the 14th of September, 1861, this force ^{was} attacked by the Federal forces under command of Generals Reynolds and Rosecrans.

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On the 14th of September, 1861, this force ^{was} attacked by the Federals under command of Generals Reynolds and Rosecrans.

The firing began early in the morning and continued until night-fall when the Federals withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain summit. The Confederate loss was thirty-six killed. That of the Federals unknown. A few days later the Confederates fell back to Camp Allegheny, and after being reinforced by two regiments, one of which was the 52nd Virginia Infantry, under Colonel John Baldwin, they fortified a strong natural position. Here in December they were again attacked by the Federals and the engagement continued throughout the day, but terminated as had the first, in the repulse of the Federals.

BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN

On the 23rd day of June 1861 General McClellan assumed command of the Federal forces in Western Virginia and began a series of movements which met with no successful resistance until the ~~Federals~~^{Confederates} were compelled to retreat beyond the mountains. He marched against General Pegram who with a force of 4000 infantry had taken up a strong position on Rich Mountain which is also known by that name in Pocahontas County. Austin sent 2500 men and a battery of artillery to resist the advance of Rosecrans. They were the first to reach the top of the mountain and here the Federals were greeted by a discharge of Artillery and their advance checked. Soon they were supported by an Indiana regiment. A charge was made along the entire line. The Confederates fell back and at once began to retreat.

The ground was strewn with the dead and the wounded,

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150 being buried on the field. Pegrim finding no way of escape a few days later surrendered his entire forces prisoners of war.

General R. E. Lee in West Virginia.

General ~~RxxE~~ Lee, the ablest officer in Virginia, marched at the head of 9000 men against General Reynolds who was lying with a considerable force at Cheat Mountain. The attack was made on the 14th of September and after several hours severe fighting Lee was forced to retreat, leaving 100 dead upon the field.

Among the dead was Colonel John Washington, a recent proprietor of Mount Vernon. Lee's army halted on the banks of the Greenbrier river and began to entrench itself. General Reynolds, after receiving re-enforcements set out on the 2nd of October from Cheat Mountain with a force of 5000 men to drive Lee from his position. Colonel Kimball with the 14th Indiana led the advance while General Milroy, with a portion of his brigade was to deploy to the left, drive in the pickets & force the Confederates within the entrenchments.

At daylight he arrived at Greenbrier bridge and found it destroyed. A charge was made, the bridge carried and a cross-firing started. This began an artillery duel which fairly cleared the surrounding mountains. Soon three of Lee's guns were silenced and he again retreated. The Federal loss was 120 killed and thirty-two wounded. Lee left General Johnson with 4000 men on the summit of the Alleghanies,

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At daylight he arrived at Greenbrier bridge and found it destroyed. A charge was made, the bridge carried and a cross-firing ensued. This began an artillery duel which fairly cleared the valley of the mountains. Soon three of Lee's guns were silenced and he again retreated. The Federal loss was 1200 men, 300 of whom were wounded. Lee left General Johnson with 2000 men on the summit of the Alleghanies,

and continued his march to Staunton. Milroy marched against Johnson, taking with him the 13th Indiana and two other regiments. On the 15th of December he reached Camp Allegheny where he found the Confederates strongly fortified.

An engagement took place, the results of which were not afvantageous to either side, the loss being 130 on both sides. Milroy withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain.

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Locatondat Cd -

Above all taken from Hardesty's Encyclopedia.

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Juanita Dilley
Clover Lick
Pocahontas County

Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County



A part of the Confederate fortifications at Camp Bartow at Travelers Repose. Two cannons were stationed here. This and several others are still to be found on this battle field.



Historic Travelers Repose as it is today. The only regular stage coach stop in the county. The original building was practically destroyed during the Civil War. Mr. B. B. Beard who now owns it tells me that the front part of the house is pretty much as it was rebuilt by Peter Yeager after the war.

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Ma S. Dilley

POCOHONTAS COUNTY

Apr. 13, 1949

CHAPTER 4 - SECTION '4B' - 3

Page 1

Many of our citizens were arrested during the war for being sympathizers on one side or the other. The following are a few of the names I have been able to find. Also some were killed for their beliefs.

Thomas Galford was a pronounced Confederate sympathizer and was regarded as a dangerous citizen to be at large in war times. He was arrested by a detachment of Union soldiers under Captain Nelson Gray, sent to Camp Chase where he died during the war.

John Smith of Stony Creek was a Union sympathizer. He was arrested by the Confederate militia, but was proven not dangerous and was released on parole. He died before he got back home.

Richard Auldridge was a Confederate sympathizer and was killed. His two sons were in the southern army. The one son, John Auldridge was killed at Gettysburg. The other son, Allen Auldridge, was discharged as a brave and faithful soldier.

Josiah Beard was taken prisoner by Federal troops near the end of the war, though he was past 70 years of age. Something was said to rouse his ire, and he challenged the whole squad to single combat.

Henry Arbogast was a sincere, decided but harmless sympathizer with the Union cause. When last seen alive he and his neighbor Eli Buzzard were in charge of a squad of persons claiming to be confederate scouts. A few days later these two civilians were found dead near the roadside, about half way between their homes at Glade Hill and Frost. From the attitude in which they were found it is inferred that he died in the act of prayer.

Sam Moore lived near Edray. He was greatly respected. His sympathies were with the Union adherents, and he died at Hocking during the war.

(The Friends history of Pocahontas)

John S. Dilley
March 5, 1960

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

CHAPTER 4 - SECTION 4B - 3

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(The Union history of Pocahontas)

Verita S. Dilley

George Burner was a Jacksonian democrat, and strange to say one of the original Pocahontas secessionists, so intense his devotions to state rights had become.

(The question of secession was the main issue in Pocahontas. Many had already freed their slaves because they did not believe in slavery, yet they did not believe in setting them all free at once.)

Jacob Slaven lived on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. Many people traveled this route, and the home of Jacob Slaven was well known as a place of hospitality. Governor Joe Johnson and Stonewall Jackson have stopped here to enjoy trout and venison. Everything seemed prosperous and pleasant with Jacob Slaven until the terrible ravages of war laid his home in ashes, and killed the family inmates.

No places in the county were so ravaged by war as was upper Pocahontas.

From - Prices' history.

Irregular Warfare - Bushwhacking. In the spring of 1862 with the regular troops swept out of the county, the irregular fighters began to cause trouble. They called them gorillas at first, but later coined the word bushwhackers. It was the curse of a brave and impetuous people, such as are to be found in the mountains that they could not help taking part in the fighting whether they had been born in or not. They carried guns like city men carry canes, and they fought on one side or the other according to their convictions.

Alroy in a letter to Gen. W. S. Rosecrans wrote on March 18, 1862. This was set as the day for drafting of the militia of Pocahontas and Highland. Many citizens to escape draft were hiding in the mountains and trying to escape. Seven have arrived here yesterday.

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On March 19th Alroy wrote that 24 refugees from Pocahontas and Highland counties had come to escape being drafted into the rebel army; that the penalty for desertion was death. March 31st Alroy reported refugees

... to come. This day 12 arrived from Focahontas and reported that the
assault still continued.

April 4, 1862 General William Skeen wrote to Confederate headquarters that these men that Virginia had authorized to organize as regulars for the home defense were devastating the country and had killed three citizens of Fincastle and stolen 15 horses. He complained of them as bitterly as did the general generals.

Regular troops were withdrawn after the battle of Fort Allegheny. Then it
-for hundreds of able-bodied men took up arms to defend themselves, and there
were uneasy times.

Soldiers at home on furlough responded to appeal for assistance and little armies would spring up in a day, have a skirmish, and disband as quickly as they had come together. It was but an echo of the minute men of the Revolution. The battle of Duncan's Lane was the largest battle fought in Decades by these troops and furlough soldiers, though there was continual smaller skirmishes.

The courts did not meet and the citizens suffered from the needs of soldiers of both armies and from the irregular troops. It is certain that nowhere in the country was there more peril to inhabitants than in the county of Roanoke. This
danger was so great because of the division of sentiment.

From - West Virginia blue book 1924

• He was a skirmish at Earlim Bottom April 19, 1864, Captain J. W.
• Cavalry Co. of the 15th Virginia Cavalry came upon a company of Federal soldiers
• • • • • known, and chased them north toward Edray.

1651 186-11F

The first battle of the Civil war was fought at Brandy Station near Hunter'sville, Battle of May 1861 on the 11th day of May 1861.

The battle was fought between the 6th Ohio Cavalry and a portion of Gen. Lee's Army, returning to their homes after the surrender.

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particularly shy in doing so. Many of
them eat them.

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From - West Virginia blue book 1928

There was a skirmish at Cirlins Bottom April 19, 1864, Captain J. W.
McMillin Co. of the 16th Virginia Cavalry came upon a company of Federal soldiers
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LAST BATTLE

The last battle of the Civil war was fought at Brandy Hallow near Huntersville,
a mile west of town northwest on the 1st day of May 1865.

This battle was fought between the 6th Ohio Cavalry and a portion of Gen.
John Sedgwick's army returning to their homes after the surrender.

Source - W. F. D. - 1928 - by Andrew Price

"particularly why in doing so, " "keep out them,
many or

citizens, and was familiar with the country in the vicinity. Immediately following the fight, and while Averill was still in pursuit of Jackson, Colonel Harris dispatched guards through the country north of Beverly, who arrested quite a large number of citizens, all of whom were peaceable, law-abiding men--good citizens. They were marched into Beverly and formed in line near the old courthouse. Colonel Harris then walked along the front of the line and put this question to each one separately: "Are you a Union man?" When the answer was directly in the affirmative, the man was passed. When the answer was, "My sentiments are with the South," or its equivalent, Harris ordered the person giving such answer to take two steps forward. Several of those in line, in reply to the question, stated that they were "Constitutional Union men"; of these latter were Lennox Camden, a brother of Judge G. D. Camden, and Charles W. Russell, the latter, a late leading merchant and well known throughout the county, and who was a Union man. This answer evidently, in the opinion of Harris, did not constitute sufficient loyalty, for in each instance where this answer was given, such person was ordered to take the two steps to the front. When Harris had finished his questioning, there were thirteen in the lined line. The number in this instance in the course of time would be a frightful exemplification of all that has ever been added to it in the way of being an omen of disaster by those who were revolutionaries. The thirteen were immediately sent under guard to the Federal prison at Fort Delaware. The names of those sent were: John C. Smith, Charles W. Russell, Thomas J. Caplinger, John C. Moore, Dr. Smith French, John French, John French, John French, John French, John French, William Clegg, John

Leary, and Allen Isner.

The public at the time attributed these arrests to Harris's intense hatred of Southern sympathizers and his chagrin and anger at Jackson's having reached the immediate vicinity of Beverly without his knowledge, and especially as Jackson had made announcement of his intended coming several months in advance; all of which Harris realized constituted a severe reflection upon the commander of the post in not having been more alert, and in allowing himself to be thus surprised; and which, but for the miscarriage of Jackson's orders to Colonel Dunn, would have resulted in the probable capture of himself and his entire command; and also, the further fact that Jackson had succeeded in withdrawing his troops and escaping without material loss, all of which was intensified by the rebuke and criticism administered by General Averill, his superior officer. Averill, being a West Point graduate, had no special admiration for civilian army officers like Harris.

There is little doubt that Harris was smarting under Averill's criticisms, and especially as Averill attributed his own failure to defeat, if not to capture, Jackson's command to Harris's failing to notify him (Averill) in time. Averill, in his official report, wrote: "Had Colonel Harris furnished me with timely warning of the approach of the enemy, I should have killed, captured, or driven into entrapment his entire command. As it was, he received but a few moments."

After, however, the capture, most strenuous efforts were made to secure the release of these men from Fort Delaware, where they were confined. The public generally knew they were

innocent of any charge; a number of them were influential men; but all efforts were without avail until virtually half of them had died in prison. When finally the survivors, seven in number, were released, one of them, Lennox Camden, died before reaching home. Another, Philip Isner, died a few days after reaching home. S-ith Crouch and John Crouch died very soon afterwards. The three survivors, Charles W. Russell, Thomas B. Caplinger, and George Caplinger, were so broken in health as to suffer from the effects of their incarceration and treatment to the day of their demise.

Harris had, prior to the war, been a country doctor, practiced in Ritchie County (now West Virginia) and later, located in Elkinsville in the same State. After he became identified with the "Lost cause," he became intensely partisan. In those days intense partisanship was the stepping-stone, for many, to promotion. Harris had risen to the rank of colonel of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, as stated. This regiment contained many good men, and many who detested Harris. His unpopularity was such that while stationed at Beverly, he was shot at one night by some of his regiment, one bullet passing through his whiskers. Of this I was informed by one of his commissioned officers. Elevated to the rank of colonel, Harris seemed to have become obsessed with an exalted sense of importance that such an appointment carried with it. He remained at Beverly, a long time. Having the power of a colonel, he much dreaded, especially as he seemed ever ready to call upon the terrible and remorseless who approached him to collect their debts, and which resulted generally in the loss of limb or life, as no recompence. It would be difficult to estimate his money, and I presume it is equally

true of others, the number of citizens of the county, or their names, who were, during the war, arrested and sent under guard to the military prisons of the North, many of them by Harris-- generally without cause and without any specific charge being made known to them, and many of whom did not live to return to their homes.

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Optical
History

Topic: W. Va.

Title: Battle of Droop Mt

Author:

Status: Complete Date Submitted: _____ Length: 600 Words

Editor:

Contents: Detailed history of the battle of Droop Mt. Gives events and dates preceding battle; full description of battle with map of battlefield.

Source given:

File: _____

Folder: _____

Kosciusko

CLOUD MILL

JULY 31, 1936

1936

BATTLE OF DROOP MT.

NOVEMBER 6, 1863

BY CAPT. E.R. HOWERY

EVENTS AND DATES PRECEDING BATTLE

Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Va.
 Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. M. Duffie left Charleston, W. Va.
 Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain

Number of troops engaged (Union)----4700

Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950

Number killed (Union)----- 130

Number killed (Confederate)----- 400

Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, W. Va., about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keepers battery was placed on the hill above Boards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Ziven's battery was placed to the left of the turn pike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battalion and the famous 10th W. Va Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turn pike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain.

The 26th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on along detour to the right via Libolia to come over the Jackson road and take to

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U.S. Army, and Confederate troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C.S. Army.

One of the reasons for the battle of these two forces in West Virginia was; The State of Virginia had been invaded by Federal forces on November 2nd, 1863.

General Averell had orders to march his forces to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity.

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in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be drawn out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 27th, Gen. Benjamin Kelly, U.S. Army ordered General Averell who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union W. Va. and thence to Virginia and the Ohio R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately established guerrilla bands and detached units of

JULY 31, 1936

CANNON BALL

PAGE 3



MAP OF BATTLEFIELD

Confederates on the left started their movement starting at 1:45 A.M. and the main advance of the Rebels did not complete until about 1:45 P.M. The advance of the Rebels was a full-scale attack and it followed the line of the road. The Rebels were in the lead, followed by the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments. The Rebels had a large number of men and they were well equipped.

On June 18, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lubelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They fired once with the flanking party, and drove the Confederates back toward Lewisburg.

Due to the road being narrow, the Confederates were in confusion—cavalry and infantry all mixed up together.

General Chapman was in command of the rear guard of the confederate and it was through him he learned that the rebels had driven the rebels off without losing any men or equipment.

Another thing that might have influenced the retreat was that Gen. Avord did not wish to push the Confederates too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off.

The Confederates retreated on thru the night and passed thru Lewisburg just as General Duffie entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

The battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies!

One very interesting part of General Echols' report is quoted: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass Howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery, which broke completely down during the retreat so that it had to be left this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can boast."

This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troops the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map, than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

Co. 2898, CCC, invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, gun pits, latrines, and other interesting things.

Inventory of Materials

Folger -

Topic: History Co. Va.

Title:

B.R.C. Mountain Battlefield

Author:

Julia F. YeagerDate submitted: _____ Length: 150 words

Status:

A. complete

Editor:

Content: A complete statement on the
battlefield. It was located
and brief history of battle, and stories
surrounding it.

Source:

face given

Considered:

Revised:

File: _____

Folders: _____

Bell F. Yeager

Bella F. Yeager

6

Yonah Woods or mountain
Battlefield Park Commission

DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD

One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred at Droop Mountain, Pocahontas County, on November 6th, 1863, in which West Virginia Soldiers, both Confederate and Union participated.

Droop Mountain is a very high elevation--3000 ft---overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County and the far off peaks of the Allegheny Mountains making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia.

Each Army fought for what it believed to be right and nearly all of the men who were actors in that bloody drama were West Virginians. The bitter struggle ended and the animosity engendered by that conflict has passed away and universal peace reigns.

The scene spread out before us was one of indescribable beauty and enchantment. Towering mountains, the smiling and fertile plains, the famous historic Greenbrier River flowing at the base of the rugged mountain --nowhere in all our travels have we witnessed such scenic beauty or such a location for a battle field.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in Greenbrier Valley which had been held by the Confederates from its head to its mouth. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate

forces, General Averill was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia to Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County, and ~~xxx~~ it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought between the forces commanded by General Averill and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson. Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, the County seat, seven miles from Mill Point and four from Hillsboro. It is ten miles from Renick Station, sixteen from Frankford and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg.

The forces engaged in the battle of Droop Mountain were composed of twelve Confederate Units, regiments, battalion and independent companies while the Union forces were composed of nine Unites, regiments and battalions. There was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies. The 10th West Virginia Infantry and the 23rd Ohio that composed the flanking party and did the principal fighting was officially reported as 1175 while the 22nd Virginia Infantry Confederate was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong. The 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Capt. Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Capt Derringes Battalion 500 and Major Mc Cleer battalion and other units composed a fine fighting force.

Another part of the history of Droop Mountain is especially interesting. We reason from analogy and from previous evidence that Droop Mountain has been a battlefield since the earliest times or by the early Indian tribes.

of America. Many wonderful stories are handed down through journals and family records of the Shawnees who were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the country west of the Allegheny. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the six nations and existed in various branches. We find excavations at the foot of Droop Mountain where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

At one time this has been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest. Many legends are told by people who lived on Droop Mountain and handed down for younger generations.

A young Union Officer who rode a beautiful sorrel horse was killed while riding fast around a large tree. The frightened riderless horse ran around the tree several times before it was stopped. It was said by people of that battle they could hear the rapid running of that frightened horse ^{in the anniversaries of that battle} around that tree. A most pathetic scene occurred at that battle. After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded. Among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F. West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night and Short discovered a dead soldier and took hold of his body to remove him to the hospital. They were tramping the dead and wounded together. He felt a crackling finger on the dead soldier's hand and the size of it. He was convinced Short that it was his brother. He waited for some one to bring a light, saying that he wanted to see his brother.

and when they got the light he found for a certainty that the man really was his own brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newton many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew this to be the lifeless body of his brother. This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever to our knowledge been recorded in the annals of warfare.

Rella F. Spencer

Inventory of Materials

Topic: West Virginia W. Va.

Title:

Pocahontas County in the Civil War.

Author:

Will F. Yeager

Date submitted: _____ Length: 1,000 words

Editor: _____

Status:

Unpublished

Abstract: (unpublished account of
Pocahontas County in the Civil War.
Names of officers & companies formed,
units fought; battle of Rich Moun-
tain, General R. E. Lee in W. Va.

Source:

Personal journal

Consultants:

Reliability:

File: _____

Folder: _____

Inventory of Materials

Topic: Jefferson W. Va.

Title:

Fairmont County in the Civil War.

Author:

Will F. Peager

Date submitted: _____ Length: 1,000 words

Editor: _____

Status:

Complete

Abstract: Complete account of
Fairmont County in the Civil War.
Gives names of officers & companies formed,
and units fought; battle of Rich Moun-
tain, General R. E. Lee in W. Va.

Source:

Personal notes

Consultants:

Reliability:

File: _____

Folder: _____

POCAHONTAS COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

In the year 1861 the clouds of War hung over our Country; their deep density hung over Virginia which at that time included West Virginia. Civil commotion shook the grand old Commonwealth.

Everywhere they enlisted in their native state; from the tide washed shores, from the midland counties and from the rock ribbed Alleghenies, long lines of brave soldiers marched forth to battle and die upon a hundred crimson fields. Among them were many of the descendants of the first pioneers of Pocahontas County who a century before had struggled with the fierce and relentless barbarians and had at last driven him from the country in which they had founded their homes, where the soldiers of a later day were born and reared.

When the tocsin of War sounded throughout their native mountains volunteering began. Andrew G. McNeel repaired to the Little Levels and organized the first company. This was early in the spring of 1861. A requisition was made for men but they were unjoined from Richmond but were never received and the company disbanded in the fall of that same year.

Captain D. A. Stofer mustered a company at Huntersville, and with it was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry.

402

12/14/77 -

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When the tocsin of War sounded throughout their native mountains volunteering began. Andrew G. McNeel repaired to the Little Levels and organized the first company. This was early in the spring of 1861. A requisition was made for men but they were shipped from Richmond, but were never received and the company disbanded in the fall of that same year.

Captain D. A. Stofer mustered a company at Huntersville, and with it was attached to the 31st Virginia Cavalry.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turnpike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain. The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Lobelia to come over the Jacox road and take the Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A. M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southerners was as follows: On the river road, Edgar's Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Patton; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Co. Cochran; Dorricks Battalion of Infantry, Jackson's batteries; Major Blessing with 6 companies of the 23rd Battalion was placed on the Lobelia-Jacox road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by a steep mountain.

About 1:45 P. M. November 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederates back to Lewisburg. Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion--Cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederates and it was through his strong defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment. Another factor that might have influenced the retreat was that General Averell did not wish to push the Confederates

too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off. The Confederates retreated on through the night and passed through Lewisburg just as General Duffie entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

This battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies.

One very interesting part of General Echol's report is quoted: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass Howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery, which broke completely down during the retreat so that it had to be left this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can boast."

This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troop the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

Co. 2598, CCC invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, gun implements and other interesting things.

Ms. A. 2. 1. Vol. 1. No. 1.

Bills of Lading

BEVERLY UNDER ARTILLERY FIRE.

By Thomas J. Arnold, Elkins, W. Va.

*Historical
Handbook*

An expedition that proved disastrous to the Confederates, and likewise for some who were not, was that connected with the occupation of Beverly, Va., now West Virginia, during the War between the States.

At the time of the Imboden raid through Western Virginia (April, 1863), Gen. William L. Jackson, who accompanied Imboden, casually remarked while in Beverly that he was coming back there to spend the 4th of July. Of course, no one took the remark seriously. Although it was commonly repeated afterwards, as well to the Federal commander as others, it passed unheeded. Sure enough, on the third day of July, a Confederate force unexpectedly appeared south of and in the vicinity of Beverly, under the command of Gen. William L. Jackson, who dispatched a detachment under Maj. J. B. Lady on the road leading northward, west of the river to its intersection with the road leading to Buckhannon, in order to cut off retreat in that direction. He having previously dispatched another detachment under the command of Col. A. C. Dunn, by a country road, eastward of the main road, with orders to occupy the road leading to Philippi, northward of Beverly, thus cutting off retreat in that direction. He planted his artillery on the slope of the hill, about one and one-half miles southwest of Beverly, and opened fire on the Federals, who were hurriedly gathered within their fortification. The Confederate guns were of small caliber, and, probably due to inferior ammunition, most of the shells fell short, landing in Beverly.

Col. Thomas N. Harris, of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, and who at a later period attained unenviable notoriety, as a member of the military court that tried and convicted Mrs. Surratt and sent her to the scaffold, was in command of the Federals. Guards were stationed on all the roads leading from Beverly; and no one--man, woman, or child--was permitted to pass these guards; hence all civilians were confined to the limits of the town and were thereby subjected to the fire of the Confederate artillery. Although this firing continued for a considerable part of two days, no citizens were injured, and but few houses were struck by shells.

It has always been the understanding, which is probably correct, that the detachment Jackson sent to approach Beverly from the north and open the attack, had in the course of their march found a supply of apple brandy; and the detachment became so intoxicated, that they lost sight of and interest in the undertaking. Jackson waited impatiently throughout the first day for the officer in command of this detachment to make the attack, as pre-arranged; the second day he was still expecting it every moment, but received no intelligence. Along toward noon there appeared, advancing up the valley, west of the river, an army of mounted men, deployed to sweep everything before them. It was Averill's full brigade of Federal cavalry. It was a formidable force. There was but one thing left for Jackson to do--get out as rapidly as possible or be overwhelmed. This he proceeded to do, and accomplished with such skill that he escaped with but slight loss.

Gen. William L. Jackson, while on the bench prior to the war, had held a term of court in Beverly, knew many of the

out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 26th, Gen Benjamin Kelly, U. S. Army ordered General Averell, who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union, W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted gorilla bands and small detachments of confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, West Virginia, about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg, until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keepers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eivon's battery was placed to the left of the turnpike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battalion and the famous 10th W. Va. Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.